

**Andrew Jackson to Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roch
Gilbert Du Motier, marquis de Lafayette, September 10,
1824, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited
by John Spencer Bassett.**

TO THE MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE.1

1 Copy.

Hermitage, September 10, 1824.

Sir, The Public journals announce your return to the land where your sword was unsheathed in the cause of Freedom, where, abandoning your *ease*, *your fortune*, and *your country*, and what was still more dear to youthful minds, the *embraces of conjugal Love*, and *the magnificence of the court of Versailles*; you embarked in the service: of our infant Republic at a time when its patriotism (a mere handful of men, divided and dispirited,) were retreating before Thirty Thousand British Veteran Troops. It was under such circumstances that the Heaven born flame of Liberty and Equal rights animated your youthful breast, and Taught you that it was more honorable to become the compatriot of immortal Washington, than enjoy the most splendid honors of Royalty—it was under such circumstances that you risked your fortunes with those of *then* hopeless America: But, Thank Heaven, America triumphed; and, now, with the gratitude of Ten Millions of Freemen she salutes you as one of the Fathers of her glorious existence, and as the devoted advocate of independence and national freedom throughout the world. Welcome then—Thrice Welcome to her grateful land!—is echoed from every bosom, and from none with more pure fervor than from the Patriotic citizens of Tennessee.

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I cannot here, Sir, restrain a recurrence to my own youthful feelings, when your arrival and that of the Baron de Kalb was announced at Charleston So Carolina. It aroused every Patriot from a state of despair to that of confidence in our bleeding cause, while the shout of victory or death was sung thro the welkin. It inspired an enthusiasm fitted for such occasions, and becoming the people who had resolved to be free. "Believe it, Dear Genl., one of the happiest moments of my life, that which enables me to tender you my grateful feelings on this occasion, which I beg you to accept with my high respect, friendship, and esteem; and also present the same to your son